

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

PPE inspections are vital and should be performed regularly to ensure the equipment remains effective. Pre-use inspections will help detect problems or malfunctions that don't perform to the manufacturer's standards.

When PPE it fits properly and is well maintained, it can help keep workers safe from work-related hazards.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:

- **WHEN TO INSPECT PPE**
- **WHY INSPECT PPE?**
- **WHAT TO DO IF YOU IDENTIFY DEFECTIVE PPE**
- **HOW PPE BECOMES DEFECTIVE**



**BC Forest Safety**

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# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS



## WHEN TO INSPECT PPE

- PPE has a life expectancy and should be inspected daily, before use, to identify any deficiencies.

## WHY INSPECT PPE?

- PPE can lose its effectiveness or become damaged due to exposure to grit, dirt, chemicals, UV light, misuse, or general wear and tear.
- Ensure the PPE is the right choice for the task and is fully compliant.
- Regular inspections are essential and will help you will determine whether your PPE is past its useful life.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU IDENTIFY DEFECT PPE

- PPE should not be used until the identified issues can be rectified.
- Old and worn out PPE should be discarded.
- Defective PPE needs to be removed and properly disposed of so no one can use it again either intentionally or accidentally. *Consider taking it to your supervisor to ask for a replacement and discuss how to dispose of the defective PPE correctly.*

## HOW PPE BECOMES DEFECTIVE - *Examples of Ineffective PPE*

Even new or well maintained PPE can lose its effectiveness after regular exposure to light, heat or chemicals. Review these examples of how PPE Can become defective.

- *The reflective strips on a high visibility vest used regularly in a dirty environment could become damaged and less visible. During the day the orange or yellow colour of the vest may be visible but at night, the vest's reflective strips may not be.*
- *A Personal Flotation Device (PFD) used on a daily basis can become ripped, faded and its labelling may become illegible. Inspect both the inside and outside of the PFD for hidden damage. Regular inspections are critical to avoid the risk of reduced buoyancy or its full effectiveness in keeping a worker safe.*
- *Worn out gloves that thin or full of holes will not protect your hands. And using the wrong type of glove for a task, may wear it out prematurely and/or lead to injuries.*
- *Old hard hats can become brittle and break easily. Test your hard hat periodically to see if it's brittle by squeezing the sides and front to back.*

## RESOURCE LINK

[www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/ppe-information-sheets/ppe-responsibilities-workers](http://www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/ppe-information-sheets/ppe-responsibilities-workers)

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